

JUN 25 2007

## PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number

000131-00019

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

on \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or  
printed  
name \_\_\_\_\_

Application Number

10/509,106

Filed

September 27, 2004

First Named Inventor

Gordon S. Baxter et al.

Art Unit

2168

Examiner

Jay A. Morrison

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s)

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the



Applicant/inventor

  
Signature

Assignee of record of the entire interest  
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b)  
is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)

David J. Edmondson

Typed or printed name



Attorney or agent of record  
Registration number 35,126

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Telephone number



Attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34  
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34

June 25, 2007

Date

Note: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below\*.



\*Total of 1 forms are submitted.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Gordon S. BAXTER et al. ) GAU: 2168  
Application No. : 10/509,106 ) Examiner: Jay A. Morrison  
Filed: September 27, 2004 ) Attorney Docket No.: 000131-00019  
For: DATABASE SEARCHING METHOD ) Date: June 25, 2007  
AND SYSTEM

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

**Mail Stop AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In support of the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review filed concurrently herewith, the Applicants, through undersigned counsel, hereby make the following statement.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-21 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Cappi* in view of *Chappell* and further in view of *Hazlehurst et al.*

According to the present claimed invention, the selected data from the plurality of information databases are semantically normalized in the data repository and are manipulated in the data repository to speed querying in the data repository relative to the plurality of information databases. That limitation is recited in the searching step of claim 1 and in the searching means recitation of claim 23.

The Final Rejection acknowledges that neither *Cappi* nor *Chappell* teaches or suggests that limitation, but instead points to *Hazlehurst et al* in column 2, lines 35-38, for teaching to

refine the semantic structure. However, the reference teaches refining the semantic structure of the vector spaces rather than of the data themselves. While the documents are converted to a standard format (e.g., from HTML to plain text), that is a *format* conversion rather than a semantic normalization. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the new combination of references would not have taught or suggested the present claimed invention.

The wording referred to at column 2, lines 35 to 38 does not teach or suggest that the selected data are semantically normalized in the data repository and manipulated in that repository so as to speed the querying. The disclosure in *Hazlehurst* has nothing to do with the semantic normalization of data or of concepts. In fact, that reference is specifically referring to the training and optimization of documents classification schemes.

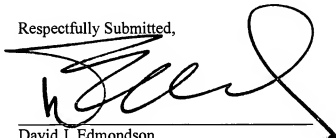
In other words, in the combination of references proposed in the Final Rejection, the *data* would not be semantically normalized as recited in the present claimed invention. The teaching the prior art to refine the semantic structure of *vector spaces* would not have taught or suggested the semantic normalization of *data*, which is a completely separate thing. The only teaching to do so comes from the present claimed invention itself.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of references proposed in the Final Rejection would not have met all of the claim limitations. Withdrawal of the outstanding Final Rejection is therefore earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortage of fees, or credit any overpayment thereof, to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000131-00019). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to render this submission timely, and in the event that a separate petition either does not accompany this submission or is insufficient to render this Amendment timely,

the Applicant hereby petitions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Edmondson', written over a horizontal line.

David J. Edmondson  
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